

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on prior art. Specifically, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linebarger et al. (US 7,035,663 B1) in view of Watanabe et al. (US 4,147,894), and Goodman et al. (US 6,958,995 B1). Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linebarger et al. in view of Watanabe et al. and Goodman et al., further in view of Brolin et al. (US 2002/0097745 A1) and Torsner (US 2007/008990 A1). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linebarger et al. in view of Watanabe et al. and Goodman et al., further in view of Beach (US 2001/0055283 A1). Finally, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linebarger et al. in view of Watanabe et al. and Goodman et al. further in view of Nowlin (US 2004/0203367 A1).

Applicant, however, hereby removes the Linebarger reference by perfecting Applicant's claim to foreign priority. A verified translation of Applicant's German priority document DE 101 33 500.8 is provided herewith. Applicant's German priority document DE 101 33 500.8 was filed July 10, 2001, which is before the filing date of Linebarger (i.e., October 30, 2001). Applicant submits that that DE 101 33 500.8 provides support for the claims. Since Linebarger is the primary reference used in the rejection of all claims 1-4 and 10, the removal of Linebarger renders the present claim rejections moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

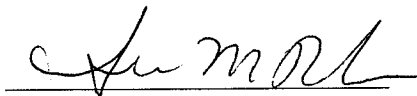
As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 7-9 contain allowable subject matter.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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